

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method of use of water-dilutable condensation resins **AB** as dispersing agents for pigments, comprising mixing the said pigments and the said condensation resins **AB**, wherein the condensation resins have an acid number of from 20 mg/g to 180 mg/g and are obtainable by condensation at a temperature of from 100 °C to 220 °C under formation of water which escapes at the reaction temperature, of components **A** containing acid groups and having an acid number of from 30 mg/g to 240 mg/g, chosen from copolymers of olefinically unsaturated monomers and compounds obtained by dimerization or oligomerization from unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids, on the one hand, and hydrophobic polyesters **B** made from aliphatic monobasic and dibasic carboxylic acids **B2**, and dihydric aliphatic linear, branched or cyclic alcohols **B1**, the said polyesters **B** containing hydroxyl groups and having a hydroxyl number of from 20 mg/g to 300 mg/g and a number-average molar mass M_n of from 500 g/mol to 5,000 g/mol, and the mass fraction of component **A** in the reaction mixture for the synthesis of the condensation resins **AB** is 30 % to 90 % and that of component **B** is 70 % to 10 %, with the proviso that the sum of the mass fractions of the two components always gives 100 %, and wherein the aliphatic monobasic acids are fatty acids.

2. (original): The method of use of claim 1, characterised in that a copolymer which is obtainable by joint polymerisation of monomers **A1** containing acid groups and unsaturated monomers **A2** without acid groups is employed as the component **A** containing acid groups.

3. (currently amended): The method of use of claim 4 2, characterised in that the monomers **A1** containing acid groups are chosen from alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acids having 3 to 13 carbon atoms and monoalkyl esters of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical.

4. (currently amended): The method of use of claim 4 2, characterised in that the mass fraction of the monomers **A1** in the mixture of monomers **A1** and **A2** is from 10 % to 33 %.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original): The method of use of claim 1, characterised in that the condensation resins **AB** are neutralised and dispersed in water before the mixing with pigments.

7. (original): The method of use of claim 1, characterised in that the condensation resins **AB** are mixed with pigments in a mass ratio of from 30 g to 300 g of pigment to 100 g of the condensation resin.